

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7031

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS PRAGUE 2410

VIENNA FOR USEWTC

1. RUDE PRAVO ANNOUNCED TODAY (SEPTEMBER 27) SUDDEN DEATH OF CZECHOSLOVAK FEDERAL MINISTER OF FUELS AND POWER, PROF. ING. JAROMIR MATUSEK, CSC., ON SEPTEMBER 26. MATUSEK WAS 57 YEARS OLD, AND HAD HELD POSITION OF MINISTER OF FUELS AND PWER SINCE JANUARY 1971.
2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT UNTIL NEW MINISTER IS NAMED, MATUSEK'S RESPONSIBILITIES WILL DEVOLVE TEMPORARILY ON FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER JAN GOLDSCHMID, WHO IS PRESENTLY AWAY FROM PRAGUE.
3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BIO FILES REVEAL LITTLE ON EITHER MATUSEK OR GOLDSCHMID. IN VIEW OF PROBABLE INCREASING IMPORATNCE OF THE CURRENTLY RATHER SAMLL-- IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER FEDERAL MINISTRIES--
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DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHO THE CZECHS NOMINATE TO FILL THIS VACANCY.
PERRY

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